New Outlets of BPCL

1489. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BPCL has started the new retail visual indentity outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BPCL has also introduced petrocard system ensuring quality and quantity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have plans to complete their new retail visual identity at 150 retail outlets (ROs) by 31st March, 2005.

(c) BPCL have not introduced a petrocard system but have launched their "Pure for Sure" initiative to ensure the quality and quantity of fuel dispensed at their ROs.

(d) The information is given in the Statement.

Statement

BPCL's ROs covered under 'pure for sure' scheme

States/UTs	Nos.
Andhra Pradesh	326
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	1
Bihar	50
Chandigarh	10
Chhattisgarh	74
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
Daman & Diu	3
Delhi	93
Goa	23
Gujarat	200
Himachal Pradesh	39
Haryana	134
Jammu & Kashmir	46
Jharkhand	44
Karnataka	278
Kerala	152
Madhya Pradesh	224

States/UTs	Nos
Maharashtra	553
Meghalaya	2
Orissa	81
Pondicherry & Mahe	9
Punjab	221
Rajasthan	224
Sikkim	1
Tamil Nadu	319
Uttar Pradesh	437
Uttaranchal	33
West Bengal	125
TOTAL	3724

GAIL's equity participation in a Chinese Company

1490. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has held talks with China Gas Holdings Limited for an equity participation for a 10 per cent stake in the company;

(b) if so, the details of the talks held so far; and

(c) the outcome thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. China Gas Holding Limited is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. GAIL had carried out due diligence of China Gas after it entered into Memorandum of Co-operation with the Company. Subsequently, Heads of Agreement were signed. GAIL propose to acquire 210 million shares of the Company at HK$ 1.158 per share after satisfaction of various conditions stipulated in the Agreement. The total value of the transaction is about Rs. 137 crores.

Oil exploration projects of ONGC

†1491. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has made a lot of efforts for oil exploration in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal since 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.